



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett

Southern District of Indiana

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CONTACT: Tim Horty

Brienne Delaney, MCPO

## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES FILING OF GUN CHARGES AGAINST THREE CONVICTED FELONS**

*Joined by Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry, indictments are a result of partnership  
between federal and local authorities*

INDIANAPOLIS – United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett, joined by Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry, announced today that three convicted felons were each charged in separate indictments with unlawful possession of a firearm.

Each of these indictments stemmed from investigations by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Achilles Task Force, and was presented to the Grand Jury by Special Assistant United States Attorney, Andrea Props. Props, who also serves as a Deputy Marion County Prosecutor, was appointed by Hogsett in August as a Special Assistant United States Attorney as part of an unprecedented partnership between state and federal authorities focused on violent and repeat offenders who use guns in their illegal activities.

“With over two decades of arrests and nearly a dozen prior felony convictions among them, these indictments send a serious message: if you are a felon in possession of a weapon, you will go to jail. We are using our combined federal and state resources to pursue illegal gun crimes to their fullest extent,” said Prosecutor Curry. “Within a short amount of time, this partnership is already yielding significant results in our collective fight against gangs, guns and drugs.”

“When Prosecutor Curry and I announced this federal-local collaboration in March, we made it clear that we would be targeting the ‘worst of the worst’ in our efforts,” Hogsett said. “Today’s indictments are exactly the type of results that will move us toward our shared goals of reducing violent crime in Marion County and throughout Indiana.”

Kardiaj Strong, 33, of Indianapolis, was charged with unlawful possession of a machine gun and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Strong’s charges stem from events that occurred on April 30, 2011, when officers were dispatched to Cold Springs Road in

Marion County on the report of a robbery of a person. Dispatch gave information that the suspect was leaving the area in a green Suburban and was armed with an assault rifle. IMPD officers quickly located the vehicle and secured a fully automatic machine gun. If convicted, Mr. Strong could face a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Joseph Jay Johnson, 33, of Indianapolis, was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted domestic batterer and as being an “armed career criminal.” Johnson’s charges stem from events that occurred on June 15, 2011 in the 400 block of North Oxford Street in Marion County where officers with the IMPD were on patrol and observed Johnson discard the loaded firearm. Records showed Mr. Johnson to be a five time convicted felon. If convicted as an armed career criminal, Mr. Johnson faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years and could be sentenced up to life imprisonment.

Mark Finney, 51, of Indianapolis, was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On July 3, 2011, officers were called to the Shell Gas Station at 2040 East Washington Street on a report of a person with a gun causing a disturbance. Officers arrived and, upon seeing the officers, Finney began reaching into his waistband/pocket area and moving away from them. After failing to comply with repeated orders to show his hands, a physical struggle ensued and the gun was secured. The firearm, reported stolen in 2009, was loaded with a round in the chamber and four additional bullets in the magazine. Records showed Finney to be a four time convicted felon. If convicted, Mr. Finney faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

“All together, the three individuals indicted this week have more than 30 prior convictions on their record, all for crimes committed in Marion County,” noted Hogsett. “Today’s announcement should be viewed as a reiteration of the commitment of the United States Attorney’s Office and our local law enforcement partners in working together to reduce violent crime in our communities.”

An initial hearing will be scheduled in each matter in Indianapolis, Indiana before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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